

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4473

ANSWERED ON:21.04.2003

CONSERVATION OF WATER RESOURCES

ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY;BHASKAR RAO PATIL;SHYAMA SINGH

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government have formulated strategies to conserve water reserves in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; State-wise;
- (c) whether the State Governments and Union Territories have been directed to conserve water reserves in their respective States/UTs; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BHOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) & (b) Water being a State subject, schemes are planned, formulated, implemented and funded by the State Governments out of their own resources and as per their own priorities. It is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government to inter-alia conserve the water reserves.

Through the concerted efforts of State Governments, a large number of major and medium projects providing 177 BCM of storage capacity have been created. Another 207.77 BCM of storage is likely to be created through ongoing and proposed projects. To help the State Governments in their efforts to complete ongoing schemes early, Government of India has launched Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) since 1996-97. Under the Programme, financial assistance in the form of central loan is being extended to State Governments.

(c)&(d) National Water Resources Council, under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister of India, has adopted the National Water Policy – 2002 which also stipulates conservation of water. The relevant provisions of the policy are as under:

"Efficiency of utilisation in all the diverse uses of water should be optimised and an awareness of water as a scarce resource should be fostered. Conservation consciousness should be promoted through education, regulation, incentives and disincentives."

"The resources should be conserved and the availability augmented by maximising retention, eliminating pollution and minimising losses. For this, measures like selective linings in the conveyance system, modernization and rehabilitation of existing systems including tanks, recycling and re-use of treated effluents and adoption of traditional techniques like mulching or pitcher irrigation and new techniques like drip and sprinkler may be promoted, wherever feasible."

The National Water Policy has been sent to all the State Governments / Union Territories for implementation. The policy also directs that each State shall formulate its own State Water Policy backed with an operational Action Plan in a time bound manner say in two years to achieve the desired objectives of the Policy.